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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/761,822	01/21/2004	Yong Lee	CU-3549 RJS/WWP	4073
26530	7590	05/19/2005	EXAMINER	
LADAS & PARRY LLP 224 SOUTH MICHIGAN AVENUE SUITE 1200 CHICAGO, IL 60604			TWEEL JR, JOHN ALEXANDER	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2636	

DATE MAILED: 05/19/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/761,822

Applicant(s)

LEE, YONG

Examiner

John A. Tweel, Jr.

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 21 January 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Priority

1. Receipt is acknowledged of papers submitted under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d), which papers have been placed of record in the file.

Claim Objections

2. Claim 2 is objected to because of the following informalities: The claim states that the emergency indication light is incorporated in the switch lever. It appears this should be the emergency indication light switch. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 1 and 2 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over **Strawn** [U.S. 5,663,708] in view of **Pabla et al** [U.S. 5,677,671].

For claim 1, the apparatus for indicating signals for vehicles taught by **Strawn** includes the following claimed subject matter, as noted, 1) the claimed U-turn indicating light is met by the front and rear lights (Nos. 14 and 16) that are used in the invention to indicate a U-turn, 2) the claimed left-side direction light and 3) right-side direction light

are met by the turn signal lights seen in Figure 1 as well as every turn signal light on every vehicle in America, 4) the claimed switch lever is met by the lever (No. 39) positioned within the vehicle adjacent to a steering column having individual contacts (Nos. 40-48) that selectively applies power to the U-turn and left and right side direction lights. The reference does not; however, explicitly state a power source as well as an emergency indication light with associated switch.

Automobiles have had batteries since they were created. The inclusion of a power source in the Strawn reference would not be considered a patentable innovation as batteries have been used in automobiles to activate electrical components for many years and are considered an obvious component of the Strawn reference. Hazard warning lights have also been used and are required equipment on autos sold in the United States. The circuit for interfacing brake, turn, and hazard warning signals taught by **Pabla** includes a power source (No. 30) in conjunction with a combination turn and hazard switch (No. 14) that illuminates a plurality of bulbs (Nos. 20-26) upon the activation by the user. This reference as well as common knowledge is plain evidence that hazard lights and turn signals have been used in the same automobile for some time in order to alert other drivers of the intentions of the car where they are used.

Both references pertain to similar subject matter; that is, the inclusion of auxiliary signals to common and existing signal systems, such as turn signals. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include an emergency indication light into the primary reference to make use of a

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common and well known signaling system as well as to alert other drivers to the conditions of a vehicle.

For claim 2, the emergency indication light switch of **Pabla** is incorporated into the same switch as the turn signals. This combination of references teaches a combination of turn signals, U-turn signal, and hazard signal.

5. Claim 3 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over **Strawn** in view of **Pabla et al** as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of **Martinez** [U.S. 4,882,570].

For claim 3, the combination of references above teaches the claimed subject matter as discussed in the rejection of claim 1 above. However, there is no mention in either reference of an emergency light switch positioned where a foot of the driver reaches.

The vehicle and distress indicator therefor taught by **Martinez** includes a foot switch operated by a driver of a vehicle that disables indicating lamps in the taxi's roof light and energizes distress signaling lamps in the roof light. The obvious advantage of this reference is that it appears fairly innocuous and is not noticeable to the assailant of perpetrator within the vehicle. The foot pedal is out of sight and not noticed by the passenger.

Security and safety is important in any vehicle, and the Martinez reference enhances this safety. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include a foot switch similar to that of Martinez for

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the purpose of including a safety device that is not noticeable to a passenger or perpetrator in the vehicle.

6. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Saitta [U.S. 4,550,304] is a system for signaling conditions within a vehicle.

Schaffer [U.S. 4,994,786] depicts a U-turn signal for a vehicle.

Sullivan et al [U.S. 5,086,289] is a U-turn signaling attachment to a turn signal stalk of a vehicle.

Le [U.S. 5,281,950] drives one to multiple U-turn signals.

Boxer [U.S. 5,731,755] forms the shape of a 'U' for a signal.


7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to John A. Tweel, Jr. whose telephone number is 571 272 2969. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 10-6:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jeff Hofsass can be reached on 571 272 2981. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

JAT
5/13/05



JOHN TWEEL
PRIMARY EXAMINER